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LIFE OF MADAME SOPHIE KOVALEVSKY; PROFESSOR OF HIGHER ANALYSIS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM.

Those who have not read the *Souvenirs de Sophie Kovalevsky*, by her friend Madame EDGREN-LEFFLER, will be glad to be referred to an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (May 15, 1894) under the title "La Rançon de la Gloire," which gives a sketch of the private, as well as of the public, life of this woman of genius.

Her memoirs have been printed, at her own request, in order that those who knew only the outer facts of her career and its immense successes in the field of pure mathematics, might be able to judge her life in its totality. Her own final verdict was: "Les travaux scientifique ne donnent pas la joie, et ne font pas avancer l'humanité. C'est folie d'y perdre sa jeunesse; c'est un vrai malheur que d'avoir le don des sciences, en particulier pour une femme, qui est alors pousseé de force dans une sphère d'activité où elle ne peut pas trouver le bonheur."

Her memoirs appeal to a wider public than that which wishes to follow the development of the mathematical talent of a great mind. The conclusion of her biographer is well expressed in the words of another woman of genius: * "La gloire, pour une femme, n'est jamais que le deuil éclatant du bonheur."

E. S. H.

MERIDIAN CIRCLE OBSERVATIONS AT THE LICK OBSERVATORY, JULY, 1893, TO JULY, 1894.

The meridian circle has been employed during the past year mainly in the observation of a list of 125 stars selected by Professor HOLDEN from the *American Ephemeris*, *Connaissance de Temps*, and *Nautical Almanac*. These are stars not included in the Berlin *Jahrbuch*, and are to be reduced with stars from the last as standard.

Four observations have been made of each star in one position of the instrument, and will be repeated in the reversed position.

Six hundred observations have been made of the stars of the B. J. selected by Professor AUWERS, in the belt from − 10° to +15° Declination to serve as fundamentals, and 450 observations of the circumpolar stars of the same list.

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* Madame de Staël.

A determination of the collimation correction is made for each night's work, and three of the zenith point and level, by nadir.

The places of various short lists of comparison stars have been determined; and with the observations made for special investigations, and for clock corrections on a few nights other than those used for regular observing, 2300 observations have been made during the year. R. H. T.

July 27, 1894.

FOREST FIRES AT MOUNT HAMILTON, JULY 29 TO AUGUST 3, 1894.

The forest fires of 1891 have been spoken of in these *Publications*, Vol. III, page 292, and Vol. V, page 109. A poor reproduction of a good photograph of the great fire on Mount Santa Ysabel is printed in Vol. V, facing page 61. These fires burned around a semi-circle from north (through east) to south; they were never nearer than 4000 feet to the Observatory; and they were confined by our work or otherwise to the further slopes of the mountains round about.

Some time on July 28 or 29, 1894, a fire started in a deep cañon to the west of the Observatory and to the north of the brick-yard. Its smoke was very obvious all day, Sunday, July 29. On Monday the Observatory workmen, with one volunteer, cut a narrow trail from a point above the fire down to the trout stream in the bottom of Cañon Negro, which lies north and northeast of the Observatory peak. This trail was between the forest fire and the Observatory, and beyond the trail back fires were set to widen the line of protection. On Tuesday morning Mr. MACDONALD, machinist of the LICK Observatory, went twice over this line from its beginning to the trout stream (some 1500 feet below the summit) and found no place in which the forest fire had crossed our back fires. At noon on Tuesday, however, the fire had crossed the line, and was making great progress towards the Observatory, and especially towards the wooden cottages near the Observatory and the wooden stables and sheds. Fortunately, a considerable space below these buildings along the road to the springs—Aquarius—had been cleared of trees and brush in 1891. This space was once more quickly cleared off and a line of back fires set along the Aquarius road. More men were sent for, and